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Closed Trial Set For Wennerstrom

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, April

9 (AP).—The espionage trial of Swedish Air Force Col. Stig Wennerstrom began today and in two minutes was closed to the public for national security reasons.

Wennerstrom, former Swedish air attache in Moscow and Washington, is charged with passing military secrets to the Russians for 15 years.

In addition to banning spectators, the presiding judge ordered all documents except Wennerstrom's service record kept secret and the names of all military prosecution witnesses withheld.

The government charges that Wennerstrom's spying began while he was air attache in Moscow in the late 1940s. He was air attache in Washington in 1952 and held high posts in the Swedish Defense and Foreign Ministries until his arrest last July.

The prosecution charges Wennerstrom photographed top Swedish defense secrets and sold them to the Russians. The spying is alleged to have been also directed against the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, although Sweden is not a member of NATO.

Wennerstrom In Guilty Plea

The court privately trying Swedish Col. Stig Wennerstrom on charges of spying for the Russians for 15 years (Swedish authorities say he sold Stockholm secrets to the high bidder while he served in Washington) announced at the end of the first day's session that he had pleaded guilty to the first count in the indictment, dealing with his activities in Moscow in the 1940s.

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